

Statement of Community Values

When we began this transition, we asked community leaders from all around the city — immigrant and refugee communities, environmentalists, labor, business, and more — to bring three questions to their networks and report the results back to us. While we received many diverse responses, we recognize many common themes. Here is our synthesis of the answers, which is, in effect, a Statement of Community Values.

1. **How do we build the strongest possible team** to achieve the policy objectives and values set forth by the campaign (grassroots community involvement, transparency and neighborhood focus)?

We sum up the most common response to this question with one word: diversity. Some wanted to make sure that the Mayor's advisors came from different professional backgrounds: non-profits, advocacy groups, labor and business, public sector and private industry. Many felt that the new administration should hire innovative new leaders, while keeping on some experienced hands who will ensure continuity. Nearly everyone felt that Seattle's government should include people drawn from immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color. Broadly put, Seattle's government should look like Seattle.

2. **How do we build public trust** in the new administration?

Universally, the response was: transparency, openness, and accessibility. The Mayor should set clear and measurable goals and communicate honestly about the state of the City, especially when admitting mistakes. Many suggested ways for the Mayor to communicate with the people of Seattle, from upgrading the City's website to bi-weekly webcasts and monthly town halls. Another common suggestion was to cultivate strong relationships with the Council, with our neighboring cities, and with Olympia in order to repair what is seen as a series of dysfunctional relationships. Finally, we heard strong support for the neighborhoods, and many encouraged us to engage neighborhood groups in a more collaborative way.

3. **What do you view as the incoming administration and the City's greatest challenge** — what should the new administration do first out of the gate?

Answers here reflected both an understanding of our current situation as well as our collective hopes for the future. Most acknowledged that we need to address the budget crisis early in the new administration, and many offered advice for setting priorities. Not surprisingly, answers varied here, reflecting the life experience of each respondent. The largest issue on most minds was living-wage job creation, with an emphasis on "green jobs" whenever possible. Many singled out the search for a new Police Chief as the top priority, echoing concerns about public safety we heard throughout the campaign. Others raised youth issues as their number one concern, from improving the quality of public education to teen programs and youth violence prevention. Improving and increasing transportation choices had broad-based support. Finally, many argued that human services be prioritized above all, to prevent the least fortunate among us from falling through the cracks.